

# Parents Flag Edmonton

## Newsletter

July/Aug 1993

Next Meeting Will Be :  
September  
Exact Date Will Be In The September Newsletter



*Have a great summer and  
enjoy your travels.*

### July B-B-Q

There will be a BBQ at Joan and Izydore's July 10, 1993 at 5:30 pm. The address is [REDACTED] attached is a map to complement your navigational skills. Bring your own alcohol, meat, and a small salad or dessert. Call Joan at [REDACTED] to R.S.V.P. and inform her of what eats you are bringing. Oh, I just about forgot, bring a lawn chair if you can.

### Gay Pride Parade

Saturday June 26 marked Edmonton's first recognized Pride Parade!! Thank you to our friends and parents who came out and showed their support. Once again, a huge THANK YOU to Jenny for the wonderful banner she made which read: "P-FLAG Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays" on the one side, the other side read "P-FLAG we love all our children". Mayor Jan Reimer was subjected to a great deal of political fire from the ignorant masses for declaring Gay Pride Day. It would be a nice gesture to phone Mayor Reimer's office to show your gratitude at [REDACTED]

### Pride Picnic

We had a good turn out for our picnic at made a profit of \$140. Left over hot dogs and buns were donated to the youth emergency centre of Edmonton. A gigantic THANK YOU to Cindy and Dick for all the organizational work they put into the hot dog sale. THANK YOU also go out to Lynne, Mary Lynne, Joan, and Janet for helping out at the picnic. THANK YOU for the donation of food stuff and other items from Robyn and Peter, Cindy and Dick, Janet, Lynne, Joan, Brian, and Jenny and Terry. We have some pop left over, if anyone wishes to purchase some at cost phone Cindy at [REDACTED]

### Congratulations

Congratulations to Maureen Irwin for being presented with the Canada Volunteer Award Medal and Certificate of Honour in Ottawa earlier in June. The attached news paper article gives the details.

(over)

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# Humble volunteers get thanks

ROSA JACKSON  
Journal Staff Writer

## Edmonton

Maureen Irwin and Jaswant Singh Atwal don't see anything unusual in their accomplishments.

But the federal government does.

The Edmontonians received the Canada Volunteer Award Medal and Certificate of Honor last week for their contributions to the community. They shared the honor with 19 other Canadians at a ceremony in Ottawa.

Irwin, 59, has a list of achievements three pages long. She's an activist in the gay and lesbian community and has volunteered for the Canadian Diabetes Association, the Edmonton Board of Health and the Multiple Sclerosis Society's Edmonton Chapter.

She's also disabled by multiple sclerosis and diabetes. Recently, her illnesses have restricted her to an hour's volunteer work every day at Ald. Michael Phair's office.

Irwin says she didn't pick her causes, the causes picked her. "I just went through my life doing what needed to be done."

She received the Canada 125 Award this year and was nominated for a YWCA Woman of the Year award. At the Gay and Lesbian Pride '93 event June 18-27, she and Phair had awards named after them.

"It's heady stuff," she says. "I'm just an ordinary little girl from southern Ontario. I feel like I've been eulogized and I'm still alive."

Atwal, 74, is also driven to meet the needs of his community. He started volunteering in the city's Indian and Pakistani community after he arrived from India in 1982.

He's a founding member of the Mill Woods Society for the Retired and Semi-retired, has translated dozens of brochures for the Edmonton Board of Health and works in pastoral care at the Grey Nuns Hospital.

Atwal has two other awards, the City of Edmonton achievement in 1990 and the 1993 Alberta Immigration Award. But he says he doesn't work for the recognition.

"I feel satisfied that I have done something to serve mankind. This is what our religion teaches us."